

**16th Session of United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues**

UN Headquarter, New York, 27th April, 2017

Delivered by Pratima Gurung
**Agenda item no 3: Follow up to the
recommendations of the Permanent Forum,
Empowerment of indigenous women and indigenous
youth**

Thank you Madam Chair, Member states,
indigenous brother and sisters.

I am Pratima Gurung, speaking on behalf of
disability Caucus and Indigenous persons with disabilities
Global Network, Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association
(NIDA) National Indigenous Disabled Women Association
Nepal.

We observe the 10 years Declaration on the Rights
of Indigenous Peoples, World Conference Out come
document and UN convention on the Rights of PWDS,
61st Session of the CSW including the reports and studies
focusing on indigenous women with disabilities. In this 10
years we have more than 150 recommendations directly
referring to the situation of indigenous women and

indigenous youth addressing the wide range of discrimination, violence and other human rights violation

In this regard, I would like to draw the attention that Indigenous women are women with disabilities too also facing multiple layers of discrimination, sexual violence, abuse, rape, neglect, maltreatment, harassment, forced abortion and sterilization leading to isolation. Sexual and reproductive rights of women with disabilities are often questioned and denied. Studies report that almost 80% women with disabilities are victims of violence and they are four times more likely than other women to suffer sexual violence.

We realize that in every moment, every day, everywhere at home by our family members and at public places we are assaulted, raped and denied at large. This is a reality of all women with disabilities all around the globe that are still unknown to most of us.

In addition women with disabilities experience challenges that other women face, such as multiple forms of discrimination, lack of representation in government; lack of consultation; poor access to education, health care and ancestral lands; high rates of poverty; and increased vulnerable situation in disaster and conflict that happened in the earth quake in Nepal in 2015. More

than 12000 peoples have become disabled for the first time are most indigenous community vulnerable to risk. Similarly, Youth and Children with disabilities are often denied in education and participation at all levels.

Madam Chair, I would like to draw the attention to embrace the full efforts for the implementation of the Declaration and we would like reiterate to respect the diversity of each individual with full dignified life enshrined in the Article 21 and 22 first within us and provide following recommendations

1) We urge states, United Nation, UN agencies to affirm their commitment for the implementation of Article 22 incorporating intersectional approach in their work focusing in 2030 agenda with special concerns on persons with disabilities for freedom and full enjoyment of human rights at country level leaving no one behind.

2) Suggest the state and UN and UN agency to develop a comprehensive framework for financial policy and resources to address the primary needs of PWDs, access to services and effective participation and leadership, framing the emerging issues like disaster, climate change, education, livelihood impacting their daily lives.

3) We would like to draw the attention of the earlier recommendation to the UNPFII on the study on children with disability and request to hold a study on children and women with disabilities reflecting the critical concern.

4) Reflecting the critical and complex situation that PWDs face, we would reiterate to disability issues in the upcoming agenda to be discussed in UNPFII.

I thank you, Madam Chair.